Richard Lovelady, a sophomore from Hinesville, Ga., was recently selected by the first East Georgia State College baseball player to sign with a Division I team. Beginning this fall, Lovelady will trade in the green and gold of EGSC for the black and gold of the Kennesaw State University Owls.

Lovelady signs with KSU to play Division I Baseball

Richard Lovelady, Georgia Southern University Sophomore and catcher, became the first Bobcat Baseball player to commit to play at the collegiate level for the highly successful Kennesaw State Owls. Lovelady, a native of Hinesville, Ga., was recently selected to play Division I baseball for Kennesaw State University. Lovelady was one of the top performers during his tryout at East Georgia State College and was named to the Division I Prospect List.

Richard Lovelady, EGSC Sophomore

Richard Lovelady, a catcher from Hinesville, Ga., was recently selected by East Georgia State College baseball player to sign with a Division I team. Beginning this fall, Lovelady will trade in the green and gold of EGSC for the black and gold of the Kennesaw State University Owls.

STUDY ABROAD

Costa Rica:
A Ticket to Your Future

The program aims to take students to the pristine beaches of Costa Rica for a glimpse of urban life—and a game of soccer. Flying through ponds on the proper ty, they will experience the hot springs of San Luis near the Monteverde Cloud Forest. When they wake the next morning, they will have the opportunity to milk a cow and enjoy the milk in a cup of the famous Costa Rican coffee. After a natural history walk, they will return to central America, Mitchell-Blackwell comes back inspired with many new ideas for her work and service to the community. Mitchell-Blackwell has received national and international awards, and she has been challenged and inspired by the students around her. The courses she teaches at Leading Through Living are designed to help students transition into leadership roles and develop their leadership skills. Mitchell-Blackwell is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the leading through living program (LLP) for college Boundaries andcaters to students who are interested in developing their leadership skills, knowledge, and skills to apply them to the environment. Mitchell-Blackwell's passion for success is emerging leaders, and she is dedicated to helping students become great leaders. The rest of the day was full of leadership workshops and competitions that were organized by the Leading Through Living program and the Chief Operating Officer, Mitchell-Blackwell. The program had a wonderful time and was well received by the students.

On February 6th and 7th, six members of RSCG's Student Government Association attended with Advisor Ved Vahil Shrot attended the 19th annual Georgia College Leadership Conference (GCLC) at the Tate Student Center on the University of Georgia campus in Athens. The theme of the conference was "The Re" and the event offered a dynamic way to allow maximum leadership development for all college students from around Georgia. Over 25 colleges from Georgia and one from South Carolina sent participants to this conference.

At the conference, the students learned about various leadership styles and practices. Shrot was impressed by the level of engagement and participation of all the students.

THE HOOPER

East Georgia State College
131 College Circle
Swainsboro, GA 30401

Richard Lovelady was signed by the Kennesaw State University Owls, a nationally renowned college baseball team. This year's adventure begins on June 1st, with the possibility to travel to Costa Rica and continue the program.
A Student’s View of Costa Rica

By David Wade, EGSC Swainsboro

I was skeptical: Going to a foreign land with a completely foreign people to study a language that could be vital to both my academic and personal success. While I was there an interesting idea. At the same time, I had to remember that my way of life would be completely different. While there would be plenty of opportunity for the adventurous, there could also be just as much opportunity for danger. I was wrong. Life in Costa Rica is an almost entirely unique experience, and what dangers I had anticipated were practically erased from my mind after the first few days. The strangest thing was that my Costa Rican friends were some of the most people I’ve ever known, and one of the first things I grew to know was that there was no true out and to live in it. Costa Rica is a land of simplicity, of comfort and leisure. Everyone looked I saw people enjoying them of the friends I grew to know while I stay there my rice won’t need salt, pepper, or any other seasoning because it is in the States with milk and sugar (which, even then, is better than our own without being processed). No one puts a lot of thought into their home thing is you or if you just miss home, they have plenty of stands and restaurants serving American cuisine to not worry what you’re eating. All I can is try to do everything at least once because you don’t want to ruin the flavors of Costa Rica, have it is greener, the pools are, and has become a necessity for some of the most. Not the only thing there is to experience in Costa Rica. The grace of, the pools are, and has become a necessity for some of my favorite moments of the day (which is more than needed after long days of hiking). Now picture this: a big Southern man raised in Georgia matter what his/her status and rank on campus, has the right to report: Contact Tracy Woods in Swainsboro (478-289-2035/ twoods@ega.edu) or Public Safety. the right to say NO: Verbally express your refusal of any sexual advances, and tell the person to stop. the right to be heard: If you are the victim of sexual harassment, the college’s literary journal. in Room J503, Library, EGSC

Study Abroad: Costa Rica Information Sessions

Friday, Feb. 27, at 12 p.m. in Room J503, Library, Swainsboro

Wednesday, Mar. 4, at 4 p.m. in Room J503, Library, Swainsboro

EGSC Adds New Courses in Communication Arts Degree

By The Hoopee Bird News Staff

The A.A. degree in Communication Arts prepares students for a variety of careers that deal with the interaction between the individual and his or her environment. Students who enroll in Professor Steve Lavender’s course Arts. Other degree requirements include Public Speaking rating, script analysis, costuming, set design and constructing. In addition to the 23 credits required for the Communication Arts major, students are assessed on their production participation and applicability. The production courses fulfill a portion of the requirements for the associate of arts degree in Communication Arts or Intercultural Communications and four Humanities electives. American Campuses and the Sexual Assault Crisis

By The Hoopee Bird News Staff

In the wake of growing allegations of rape in 2014, 55 colleges and universities faced Title IX investigations, as the media exposed these schools’ reporting of sexual harassment complaints. President Obama’s administration has urged for greater transparency in the investigations, and the U.S. Department of Education has assessed on their production participation and applicability. The production courses fulfill a portion of the requirements for the associate of arts degree in Communication Arts or Intercultural Communications and four Humanities electives. The A.A. degree in Communication Arts prepares students for a variety of careers that deal with the interaction between the individual and his or her environment. Students who enroll in Professor Steve Lavender’s course Arts. Other degree requirements include Public Speaking rating, script analysis, costuming, set design and constructing. In addition to the 23 credits required for the Communication Arts major, students are assessed on their production participation and applicability. The production courses fulfill a portion of the requirements for the associate of arts degree in Communication Arts or Intercultural Communications and four Humanities electives.
Why English is a Great Major
By Brianna Watson, EGSC Swainsboro

English is a major that is often deemed impractical and unfeasible for getting a job. Too often its importance and the value that it brings to the world is overlooked. English classes are a crucial part of any post-secondary education, and a degree in English is very beneficial to the student.

Why Choose English?
A strength that every English major has is equal to the sum of the questions all members will ask at least twice.

• “So, you want to be a teacher?”
• “No! What else can you do with English?”
• “Why didn’t you choose a more realistic major?”

Could there possibly be any value in learning about language, communication, and expression? Yet! English doesn’t only teach students how to read and write. It also teaches critical thinking, which will be a requirement for success in any career. Another benefit of majoring in English is learning how to form intelligent and logically sound arguments on any subject and how to express them effectively. Through the study of English, students also learn how to see things from new perspectives and consider ideas and positions they had never considered before. All of these skills are very important parts of being successful in any career.

The Foreign Language Requirement
The foreign language requirement is something that makes many students wary of the English major. “Why do I need to learn a foreign language to major in our own?” they ask. The English major can be a very satisfying choice, and the foreign language requirement is just another benefit of majoring in English. Yes! English doesn’t only teach students how to read and write. It also teaches critical thinking, a valuable tool for success in any career.

Pursuing a degree in the field of English gives students many unmatched tools and abilities for being successful in any career. Another benefit of majoring in English is the learning and earning potential for future students.

Make or (Spring) Break: It’s Not Too Late to Make Plans
By The Hoopee Bird Travel Team

Perhaps this article should begin with something like “Spring Break is only a few weeks away and just a couple more after that for our Augusta students,” but we all know that everyone at EGSC is well aware of the upcoming break. However, there may still be some people who are still without plans for Spring Break. It is true that not-so-flattering images from news network footage, but the week can really be anything you want it to be. From saving your money to exploring the beauty of mid-Georgia and beyond, there are plenty of possibilities for the famous and much anticipated Spring Break.

A Hole in One: Golf and such
By Brianna Watson, EGSC Swainsboro

With registration for summer and fall semesters beginning March 23, it is time to start considering what classes to take. Swainsboro students, how are you going to fill that P.E. requirement? A great way to earn a P.E. credit which you may not have considered is our In-‘Tournament’ Disc Golf class here at EGSC?

Maybe you’ve never heard of disc golf. It’s a sport that many people are unfamiliar with, but try out the sport. The course is laid out in popularity. Disc golf got its start in the 1970s when Ed Headrick, father of the Frisbee, invented the basket up until which the disc was thrown. The basket is elevated thirty-two inches off the ground and is equipped with steel chains to catch discs. Later, the Frisbee was re-imagined to better serve its purpose for the game. Discs were made heavier and more compact to reduce air resistance and allow for more accurate throws. There are three categories of discs varying in weight and shape, each designed for a specific purpose: drivers, approach discs, and putters. Most of the terminology is the same as in traditional club golf, and a typical game of disc golf also consists of eighteen holes.

Work: If you don’t have plans because you don’t have the funds, this is the option for you. Take advantage of the fact that many others have taken off, grab a few extra hours, and save your money. You won’t regret it when you check your account balance.

Write a research paper: Yes, this might not be the coolest idea, but no amount of time on a Florida beach will bring you the peace of mind that a completed research paper will provide. If you are lucky enough to be without an essay assignment when you wake goodbye to campus, use your time to study and prepare for the tests that loom in late March.

Volunteer: Nothing looks better on transfer applications and resumes than time spent helping others. Find a local church or food bank that needs assistance and offer your time. Whether close to campus or in your hometown, there are always organizations seeking volunteers.

Take a “stay-cation”?: The first option for a staycation is a funny but legitimate nonetheless. Crank up the heat, put on your favorite summer outfit, and jump into a beach read. Silly, yes, but also indulgent in its own way. If this is too much “stay” and not enough vacation for you, consider one of the fantastic locations easily within driving distance of any of our campuses. Local state parks make for a great day-trip, visit http://geastateparks.org/ for more information about Georgia L. Smith and Magnolia Springs parks. Savannah is another no-brainer filled with interesting places such as City Market or Forsyth Park; for a few more minutes in the car, you can visit Tybee Island (AJ’s Dockside Cafe and Tybee Pier are favorite spots).
A beautiful centerpiece of the natural environment that makes up EGSC’s Swainsboro Campus is Ezra Pond. Ezra Pond is over 10 acres in size, and provides the priceless advantage of motivation. Is college worth it? Definitely. Now, of life. Higher education allows you to pursue your interests and find a job you love, better education and the quality of life. Ezra Pond became accessible. Although the pond was not completed and occupied until the fall of 1973, the campus was not complete and occupied until the fall of 1973. Ezra Pond’s current status is that it is used for educational purposes and as a recreational area for students.

Meet an SGA Member

The Student Government Association, or SGA, is the campus organization governing student activities and representing the students. SGA sponsors events such as the annual talent show, and is responsible for student activities and representing the student body. SGA members may be elected to positions within the SGA, and are responsible for representing the student body.

Harina Keseke

Major: Nursing
High School: Swainsboro High School
Hometown: North Georgia

Meet an EGSC Student Ambassador

EGSC Student Ambassadors is a select group of students who represent and serve the college at a number of events throughout the year. The ambassadors are responsible for representing the college and providing valuable information to prospective students and their families.

Harina Keseke

Major: Nursing
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Is College Really Worth It?

By Ashley Francis, EGSC Swainsboro

Before, during, and after their days on campuses across the country, students continuously wonder “Is college really worth it?” After graduating, many have trouble finding jobs and struggle with student loans, having a degree is actually more valuable than ever, and new research highlights three significant reasons for pursuing a college degree.

1. College education increases income: Income seems to be a factor in many people’s decision to attend college. According to the Pew Research Center, bachelor’s degree earnings are close to $45,000 annually, and an associate’s degree earnings are close to $30,000. However, the price that students actually pay is $2,490, thanks to grants and scholarships. “Membership” can create an even greater divide between those who choose to attend college.

2. College education is associated with higher earnings: College education is associated with higher earnings. The advantage of college education is clear in salary studies, but they extend beyond the number on a paycheck. The advantages of college education are clear in salary studies, but they extend beyond the number on a paycheck. Earning a college education is clear in salary studies, but they extend beyond the number on a paycheck.

3. Time after high school not spent working towards a degree costs more than tuition, especially in terms of lifetime earnings. Studies from the Pew Research Center suggest that more often than not, a diploma, but many employers now look for college transcripts. Time after high school not spent working towards a degree costs more than tuition, especially in terms of lifetime earnings.

In addition to the obvious earnings argument, college can strongly affect your quality of life. Higher education allows you to pursue your interests and find a job you love, and provide the priceless advantage of motivation. Is college worth it? Definitely! Despite what you may have heard, the real questions is What’s your major?


Valentine's Day—the day that all single
people dread. This year was no exception.
For those “lucky” ones with dates, Valen-
tine's Day may not have measured up to
the expectations and standards. Those “rose-colored glasses” one may have
worn for the entirety of the semester in
the presence of his or her “Valentine” are now
in the corner of the room. Whether it's
Valentine's Day loot— the Christmas Blau,
Garnet, and Peridot Bling Box—
We can blame the commercialism for start-
ing this dreadful holiday with
products that are limited. Android and Apple fans alike can check out TuneIn, Pandora,
but let's face it: there are areas in central Georgia where the listening options
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The boys and girls were not al-
lowed to speak all year until the festival.
In the "special" day, the girls' names
would be put in a jar, each state had a
"girl" that brought the youth of a community
the horror some of these boys and girls
endured...does this make being single a
value? The single to find a date on Valentine’s
Day memories are nothing more than
Words, the "jar of names" is still with us,
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Over a period of nine days, the 2015 EGSC College Readiness Bus Tour traveled to 24 high schools in our region. Tour participants met with students at each school to present new information about EGSC. Presentations by EGSC students were a highlight of the tour. This is an outstanding example of EGSC students serving our region while working toward their college degree. Participating EGSC students included Morgan Brittain, Jiropral Brunner, Calista Bird, Jaleesa Carrol, Catlan Coleman, Chris Dough, Luke Frank, Whitney Heath, Karina Kesete, Chace Purr, Danielle Shouette, Ivy Robertson, Tracy Sanders, Harley Strickland, Glenn Tobie, Tomindsa Johnson and Madeline Vickery.

This was the College's second annual tour. The tour's purpose is to educate high school students in our region about the importance of the college and the steps necessary to be admitted to college and to succeed once admitted. Each school presentation began with a brief video about college preparation and success featuring EGSC students. Many of the images of our beautiful campus in the video were taken from a drone. Check it out! You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=119. 41fLQ

Similarly, each school presentation ended with EGSC students telling their personal stories about making the choice to attend college and succeeding at EGSC. As I watched the high school students each day on the tour, it was clear that these personal stories made the biggest impact on our audiences.

As we watch and read the news each day, it is easy to allow the many stories about the high cost of college and the burgeoning student loan debt to overshadow the real story: college graduates earn more over their lifetimes, are better prepared for a career, and have a more fulfilling life. EGSC's amazing students communicate this message so very well. Their personal stories of overcoming adversity during their time at EGSC and moving toward their dreams are inspirational. Thanks, EGSC students. You're the best.

LUCAS FRINK

THEY CALL IT PUPPY LOVE

By Cassie White, EGSC Augusta

I usually only watch the Super Bowl because I have no other choice. My husband and our friends somehow actually care about football. The only times I can actually watch the Super Bowl is when Super Bowl Sunday hits. I have few other entertainment options. Why? Sadly, our cohort gathers around my family's only television, and of course, I'm not allowed near the remote. The sports' enthusiasts that plop on our couch have good reason to keep the remote control out of my hands.

Beverton is right. If you haven't already started scouring the Internet for this year's showdown, then check out the high schools students each day on the tour, it was clear that these personal stories made the biggest impact on our audiences.

THE WEEK

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

By Brooke Cason, EGSC Augusta

I am not interested in professional football, but I do watch the Super Bowl every year. I always tune in for the best commercials and the half time show. I expect to see the best advertising campaigns during the Super Bowl and always look forward to the commercials during the Super Bowl. I also enjoy watching the cheerleaders and performance during the Super Bowl.

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Always, redefines “Like a Girl”

By Brooke Cason, EGSC Augusta

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The Next Miss EGSC To Be Crowned Feb. 28

By The Hoop Bird News Staff

On Saturday, Feb. 28, seven contestants will line the stage of the Luck Theater for the Miss East Georgia State College 2015 Scholarship Pageant. The pageant will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28. Admission is $7.

Kristen Floyd, 18, is from Hinesville and plans to major in Broadcast Journalism. She will perform "Listening" by Beyoncé, and she promotes the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Ke Shon Hinkins, 20, is a Sociology major from Hephzibah. She will recite Langston Hughes' poem, "Mother to Son," and her platform is "Care for Asthma."

Taylor Hall, 20, is a Mathematics major from Twin City. She will perform a lyrical dance to "Something in the Water" by Carrie Underwood, and she promotes "Every Child Matters" as her platform.

JaCorry Cummings, 18, of Augusta is also a Biology major. She will perform a piece on the plucking platform called "Become a More Responsible Student: Financial Aid Awareness."
Kaylee Arrington

Sport: Softball  Position: Pitcher

Hometown: Bartow, GA  High School: Thomas Jefferson Academy

Interesting Fact: “I pitched the first no hitter in the history of TJA softball.”

Career Highlight at EGSC: “Experiencing the Conference Tournament with my teammates.”

Why I Chose EGSC: “Coach Smith gave me the opportunity to continue to play softball, and I was fortunate because EGSC is such a good school and so close to home.”

Future Plans: “I intend to graduate next May from EGSC, and then go on to nursing school. I hope to one day be a nurse anesthetist.”

“Kaylee has stepped up and taken control on the mound as a freshman. She’s confident in her abilities, she knows the game extremely well, and she’s a true team player. We look forward to Kaylee doing big things for the team this season, and to continue to be an asset to the softball program next year as well.” - Coach Megan Smith

Alexus Tillmon

Sport: Women’s Basketball  Position: Guard/Forward

Hometown: Swainsboro, GA  High School: Swainsboro High School

Career Highlight at EGSC: “My career highlight is the game against Central Georgia Tech when I scored 27 points and had 12 rebounds.”

Why I Chose EGSC: “I felt like EGSC was a good place to continue my athletic career and begin my path towards a college degree.”

Future Plans: “I want to play basketball at Tennessee State and one day be a physical therapist.”

“Alexus has improved quite a bit this year. She’s grown into a starting role as both a wing and a post while shooting 40 percent from the 3-point range. She is also the team’s best offensive rebounder. We’re very proud of her and look for great things from Alexus as we approach playoff time.” - Coach Leroy Jordan

Jalesa Carroll

Sport: Cheerleading  Hometown: Brunswick, GA  High School: Glynn Academy

Career Highlight at EGSC: “My career highlight as a Bobcat Cheerleader is really just being on the squad to begin with. I have a background in dance but had never cheered before, so I was very excited to be on a collegiate cheerleading squad. I am very lucky to have cheered for and learned so much from Coach Taylor. Also, I have loved being a part of such a talented squad, especially when we blow the crowd away with our half-time performances!”

Why I Chose EGSC: “I came to East Georgia because I wanted to go to a good school with a personalized learning environment where I could expand my knowledge and be very involved on campus.”

Future Plans: “I will graduate from East Georgia at the end of this summer, after which I will move directly into the work force. I had a few friends who were coming to East Georgia to play baseball, so I decided to try out for the team and I made it as a walk-on. Here I am almost two years later, still playing baseball for a team I love and about to graduate with my associate degree. I’ve had the time of my life at East Georgia, and I am so glad I made the decision to come here.”

“Jalesa has really helped me improve as a player; because of his influence I think I want to go into coaching.” - Coach Matthew Passauer

Joshua Roye

Sport: Baseball  Position: Pitcher

Hometown: Augusta, GA  High School: Evans High School

Why I Chose EGSC: “To be honest, after high school I wasn’t sure if I was going to go to college or go directly into the work force. I had a few friends who were coming to East Georgia to play baseball, so I decided to try out for the team and I made it as a walk-on. Here I am almost two years later, still playing baseball for a team I love and about to graduate with my associate degree. I’ve had the time of my life at East Georgia, and I am so glad I made the decision to come here.”

Future Plans: “After graduation, I want to move on to a four-year institution to continue my education, and I hope to continue to play baseball. Coach Passauer has taught me a lot about the game and has really helped me improve as a player, because of his influence I think I want to go into coaching.”

“Josh has had a great start to the year for Bobcat Baseball. He has come out of the bullpen into some big situations and performed very well and has proven himself to be vitally important to the success of our team. If Josh can continue this success, he will play a huge role in a very exciting spring” - Coach Matthew Passauer

Tondric Johnson

Sport: Men’s Basketball  Position: Guard/Forward

Hometown: Atlanta, GA  High School: Henry County High School

Career Highlight at EGSC: “I wanted a small school that put education first, and the staff and faculty here clearly care about each and every student. I wanted to play basketball here under Coach Jordan because I knew it would help me prepare for the next level in my athletic career.”

Future Plans: “After I graduate from EGSC in May, I plan to move on to play basketball with a four-year program and obtain my degree in Computer Science. My ultimate career goal is to work in Information Technology for a Fortune 500 company.”

“Tondric is a very hardworking and dedicated young man. He shows true talent, integrity, and leadership both on and off the court. He has been a real asset to this program, and I’m excited to see all the things he will accomplish in the future.” - Coach Leroy Jordan